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(54) Title: FLUORESCENT PROTEINS FROM NON-B SUCH PROTEINS AND USES THEREOF	IOLUN	MIN	ESCENT SPECIES OF CLASS ANTHOZO	DA, GENES ENCODING	
(57) Abstract					
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# FLUORESCENT PROTEINS FROM NON-BIOLUMINESCENT SPECIES OF CLASS ANTHOZOA, GENES ENCODING SUCH PROTEINS AND USES THEREOF

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#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### Field of the Invention

This invention relates to the field of molecular biology. More specifically, this invention relates to novel fluorescent proteins, methods of identifying the DNA sequences encoding the proteins and uses thereof.

#### Description of the Related Art

Fluorescence labeling is a particularly useful tool for marking a protein, cell, or organism of interest. Traditionally, a protein of interest is purified, then covalently conjugated to a fluorophore derivative. For  $in\ vivo$  studies, the protein-dye complex is then inserted into cells of interest using micropipetting or a method of reversible permeabilization. The dye attachment and insertion steps, however, make the process laborious and difficult to control. An alternative method of labeling proteins of interest is to concatenate or fuse the gene expressing the protein of interest to a gene expressing a marker, then express the fusion product. Typical markers for this method of protein labeling include  $\beta$ -galactosidase, firefly luciferase

and bacterial luciferase. These markers, however, require exogenous substrates or cofactors and are therefore of limited use for *in vivo* studies.

A marker that does not require an exogenous cofactor or substrate is the green fluorescent protein (GFP) of the jellyfish Aequorea victoria, a protein with an excitation maximum at 395 nm, a second excitation peak at 475 nm and an emission maximum at 510 nm. GFP is a 238-amino acid protein, with amino acids 65-67 involved in the formation of the chromophore.

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Uses of GFP for the study of gene expression and protein localization are discussed in detail by Chalfie et al. in Science 263 (1994), 802-805, and Heim et al. in Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. 91 (1994), 12501-12504. Additionally, Rizzuto et al. in Curr. Biology 5 (1995), 635-642, discuss the use of wild-type GFP as a tool for visualizing subcellular organelles in cells, while Kaether and Gerdes in Febs Letters 369 (1995), 267-271, report the visualization of protein transport along the secretory pathway using wild-type GFP. The expression of GFP in plant cells is discussed by Hu and Cheng in Febs Letters 369 (1995), 331-334, while GFP expression in Drosophila embryos is described by Davis et al. in Dev. Biology 170 (1995), 726-729.

Crystallographic structures of wild-type GFP and the mutant GFP S65T reveal that the GFP tertiary structure resembles a barrel (Ormö et al., Science 273 (1996), 1392-1395; Yang, et al., Nature Biotechnol 14 (1996), 1246-1251). The barrel consists of beta sheets in a compact structure, where, in the center, an alpha helix containing the chromophore is shielded by the barrel. The compact structure makes GFP very stable under diverse and/or harsh conditions such as protease treatment, making GFP an extremely useful reporter in

general. However, the stability of GFP makes it sub-optimal for determining short-term or repetitive events.

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A great deal of research is being performed to improve the properties of GFP and to produce GFP reagents useful and optimized for a variety of research purposes. New versions of GFP have been developed, such as a "humanized" GFP DNA, the protein product of which has increased synthesis in mammalian cells (Haas, et al., Current Biology 6 (1996), 315-324; Yang, et al., Nucleic Acids Research 24 (1996), 4592-4593). One such humanized protein is "enhanced green fluorescent protein" (EGFP). Other mutations to GFP have resulted in blue-, cyan- and yellow-green light emitting versions. Despite the great utility of GFP, however, other fluorescent proteins with properties similar to or different from GFP would be useful in the art. fluorescent proteins result in possible new colors, or produce pH-Other benefits of novel fluorescent proteins dependent fluorescence. include fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) possibilities based on new spectra and better suitability for larger excitation.

The prior art is deficient in novel fluorescent proteins wherein the DNA coding sequences are known. The present invention fulfills this long-standing need in the art.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to an isolated and purified fluorescent protein selected from the group consisting of amFP486, cFP484, zFP506, zFP538, dsFP483, drFP583, asFP600, dgFP512 and dmFP592.

In one embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method of identifying a DNA sequence encoding a fluorescent protein comprising the step of screening for an existence of a nucleic acid sequence in a sample, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes a peptide having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 3, 5, 8, 11, 12 and 14. The existence of the nucleic acid sequence identifies the DNA sequence encoding the fluorescent protein.

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In another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method of identifying a DNA sequence encoding a fluorescent protein comprising the step of screening for an existence of a nucleic acid sequence in a sample, wherein the nucleic acid sequence hybridizes to a primer selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15 and 16. The existence of the nucleic acid sequence identifies the DNA sequence encoding the fluorescent protein.

In still another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method of analyzing a fluorescent protein in a cell, comprising the steps of expressing a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fluorescent protein having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 55-63 in the cell; and measuring a fluorescence signal from the protein. This method further comprises a step of sorting the cell according to the signal. Preferably, the cell is sorted by fluorescence activated cell sorting. Still preferably, nucleic acid sequence comprises a gene of interest encoding a protein of interest fused to the fluorescent protein, wherein the protein of interest is distinct from the fluorescent protein. The detected fluorescence signal indicates the presence of the gene of interest and the protein of interest in the cell. further By identifying

intracellular location of the fluorescent protein, an intracellular location of the protein of interest is also identified.

Other and further aspects, features, and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description of the presently preferred embodiments of the invention given for the purpose of disclosure.

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#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows the modified strategy of 3'-RACE used to isolate the target fragments. Sequences of the oligonucleotides used are shown in Table 2. Dp1 and Dp2 are the degenerate primers used in the first and second PCR, respectively (see Tables 3 and 4 for the sequences of degenerate primers).

Figure 2A shows multiple alignment of novel fluorescent proteins. The numbering is based on Aequorea victoria green fluorescent protein (GFP). Two proteins from Zoanthus and four from Discosoma are compared between each other: residues identical to the corresponding ones in the first protein of the series are represented by dashes. Introduced gaps are represented by dots. In the sequence of A. victoria GFP, the stretches forming beta-sheets are underlined; the residues whose side chains form the interior of the beta-can are shaded (according to Yang et al., Nature Biotechnol. 14, 1246–1251 (1996). Figure 2B shows the N-terminal part of cFP484, which has no homology with the other proteins. The putative signal peptide is underlined.

Figure 3 shows the excitation and emission spectrum of the novel fluorescent protein from Anemonia majano, amFP486.

Figure 4 shows the excitation and emission spectrum of the novel fluorescent protein from *Clavularia*, cFP484.

Figure 5 shows the excitation and emission spectrum of the novel fluorescent protein from Zoanthus, zFP506.

Figure 6 shows the excitation and emission spectrum of the novel fluorescent protein from Zoanthus, zFP538.

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Figure 7 shows the excitation and emission spectrum of the novel fluorescent protein from *Discosoma striata*, dsFP483.

Figure 8 shows the excitation and emission spectrum of the novel fluorescent protein from Discosoma, drFP583.

Figure 9 shows the excitation and emission spectrum of the novel fluorescent protein from Anemonia sulcata, asFP600.

Figure 10 shows the excitation and emission spectrum of the novel fluorescent protein from *Discosoma*, dgFP512.

Figure 11 shows the excitation and emission spectrum of the novel fluorescent protein from *Discosoma*, dmFP592.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As used herein, the term "GFP" refers to the basic green fluorescent protein from Aequorea victoria, including prior art versions of GFP engineered to provide greater fluorescence or fluoresce in different colors. The sequence of Aequorea victoria GFP (SEQ ID No. 54) has been disclosed in Prasher et al., Gene 111 (1992), 229-33.

As used herein, the term "EGFP" refers to mutant variant of GFP having two amino acid substitutions: F64L and S65T (Heim et al., Nature 373 (1995), 663-664). The term "humanized" refers to changes made to the GFP nucleic acid sequence to optimize the codons for

expression of the protein in human cells (Yang et al., Nucleic Acids Research 24 (1996), 4592-4593).

In accordance with the present invention there may be molecular biology, microbiology, employed conventional and recombinant DNA techniques within the skill of the art. Such techniques are explained fully in the literature. See, e.g., Maniatis, Fritsch & Sambrook, "Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (1982); "DNA Cloning: A Practical Approach," Volumes I and II (D.N. Glover ed. 1985); "Oligonucleotide Synthesis" (M.J. Gait ed. 1984); "Nucleic Acid Hybridization" (B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins eds. (1985)); "Transcription and Translation" (B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins eds. (1984)); "Animal Cell Culture" (R.I. Freshney, ed. (1986)); "Immobilized Cells and Enzymes" (IRL Press, (1986)); B. Perbal, "A Practical Guide To Molecular Cloning" (1984).

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A "vector" is a replicon, such as plasmid, phage or cosmid, to which another DNA segment may be attached so as to bring about the replication of the attached segment.

A "DNA molecule" refers to the polymeric form of deoxyribonucleotides (adenine, guanine, thymine, or cytosine) in either single stranded form or a double-stranded helix. This term refers only to the primary and secondary structure of the molecule, and does not limit it to any particular tertiary forms. Thus, this term includes double-stranded DNA found, inter alia, in linear DNA molecules (e.g., restriction fragments), viruses, plasmids, and chromosomes.

A DNA "coding sequence" is a DNA sequence which is transcribed and translated into a polypeptide in vivo when placed under the control of appropriate regulatory sequences. The boundaries of the coding sequence are determined by a start codon at the 5' (amino) terminus and a translation stop codon at the 3'

(carboxyl) terminus. A coding sequence can include, but is not limited to, prokaryotic sequences, cDNA from eukaryotic mRNA, genomic DNA sequences from eukaryotic (e.g., mammalian) DNA, and synthetic DNA sequences. A polyadenylation signal and transcription termination sequence may be located 3' to the coding sequence.

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As used herein, the term "hybridization" refers to the process of association of two nucleic acid strands to form an antiparallel duplex stabilized by means of hydrogen bonding between residues of the opposite nucleic acid strands.

The term "oligonucleotide" refers to a short (under 100 bases in length) nucleic acid molecule.

"DNA regulatory sequences", as used herein, are transcriptional and translational control sequences, such as promoters, enhancers, polyadenylation signals, terminators, and the like, that provide for and/or regulate expression of a coding sequence in a host cell.

A "promoter sequence" is a DNA regulatory region capable of binding RNA polymerase in a cell and initiating transcription of a downstream (3' direction) coding sequence. For purposes of defining the present invention, the promoter sequence is bounded at its 3' terminus by the transcription initiation site and extends upstream (5' to include the minimum number of bases or elements direction) necessary initiate transcription at levels detectable above Within background. the promoter sequence will be found transcription initiation site, as well as protein binding responsible for the binding of RNA polymerase. Eukaryotic promoters will often, but not always, contain "TATA" boxes and "CAT" boxes. Various promoters, including inducible promoters, may be used to drive the various vectors of the present invention.

As used herein, the terms "restriction endonucleases" and "restriction enzymes" refer to bacterial enzymes, each of which cut double-stranded DNA at or near a specific nucleotide sequence.

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been "transformed" has or "transfected" b y exogenous or heterologous DNA when such DNA has been introduced inside the cell. The transforming DNA may or may not be integrated (covalently linked) into the genome of the cell. In prokaryotes, yeast, and mammalian cells for example, the transforming DNA may maintained on an episomal element such as a plasmid. With respect to eukaryotic cells, a stably transformed cell is one in which the transforming DNA has become integrated into a chromosome so that it is inherited by daughter cells through chromosome replication. stability is demonstrated by the ability of the eukaryotic cell to establish cell lines or clones comprised of a population of daughter cells containing the transforming DNA. A "clone" is a population of cells derived from a single cell or common ancestor by mitosis. A "cell line" is a clone of a primary cell that is capable of stable growth in vitro for many generations.

A "heterologous" region of the DNA construct is an identifiable segment of DNA within a larger DNA molecule that is not found in association with the larger molecule in nature. Thus, when the heterologous region encodes a mammalian gene, the gene will usually be flanked by DNA that does not flank the mammalian genomic DNA in the genome of the source organism. In another example, heterologous DNA includes coding sequence in a construct where portions of genes from two different sources have been brought together so as to produce a fusion protein product. Allelic variations or naturally-occurring mutational events do not give rise to a heterologous region of DNA as defined herein.

As used herein, the term "reporter gene" refers to a coding sequence attached to heterologous promoter or enhancer elements and whose product may be assayed easily and quantifiably when the construct is introduced into tissues or cells.

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The amino acids described herein are preferred to be in the "L" isomeric form. The amino acid sequences are given in one-letter code (A: alanine; C: cysteine; D: aspartic acid; E: gluetamic acid; F: phenylalanine; G: glycine; H: histidine; I: isoleucine; K: lysine; L: leucine; M: metionine; N: asparagine; P: proline; Q: gluetamine; R: arginine; S: serine; T: threonine; V: valine; W: tryptophane; Y: tyrosine; X: any residue). NH<sub>2</sub> refers to the free amino group present at the amino terminus of a polypeptide. COOH refers to the free carboxy group present at the carboxy terminus of a polypeptide. In keeping with standard polypeptide nomenclature, J Biol. Chem., 243 (1969), 3552-59 is used.

The present invention is directed to an isolated and purified fluorescent protein selected from the group consisting of amFP486, cFP484, zFP506, zFP538, dsFP483, drFP583, asFP600, dgFP512 and dmFP592.

In one embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method of identifying a DNA sequence encoding a fluorescent protein comprising the step of screening for an existence of a nucleic acid sequence in a sample, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes a peptide having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 3, 5, 8, 11, 12 and 14. The existence of the nucleic acid sequence identifies the DNA sequence encoding the fluorescent protein.

In another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method of identifying a DNA sequence encoding a

fluorescent protein comprising the step of screening for an existence of a nucleic acid sequence in a sample, wherein the nucleic acid sequence hybridizes to a primer selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15 and 16. The existence of the nucleic acid sequence identifies the DNA sequence encoding the fluorescent protein.

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In still another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method of analyzing a fluorescent protein in a cell, comprising the steps of expressing a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fluorescent protein having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 55-63 in the cell; and measuring a fluorescence signal from the protein. This method further comprises a step of sorting the cell according to the signal. Preferably, the cell is sorted by fluorescence activated cell sorting. Still preferably, nucleic acid sequence comprises a gene of interest encoding a protein of interest fused to the fluorescent protein, wherein the protein of interest is distinct from the fluorescent protein. The detected fluorescence signal indicates the presence of the gene of interest and of interest in the cell. further the protein By identifying intracellular location of the fluorescent protein, an intracellular location of the protein of interest is also identified.

The following examples are given for the purpose of illustrating various embodiments of the invention and are not meant to limit the present invention in any fashion.

### EXAMPLE 1

## Biological Material

Novel fluorescent proteins were identified from several genera of Anthozoa which do not exhibit any bioluminescence but have fluorescent color as observed under usual white light or ultraviolet light. Six species were chosen (see Table 1).

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#### TABLE 1

# Anthozoa Species Used in This Study

Species	Area of Origination	Fluorescent Color
Anemonia majano	Western Pacific	bright green tentacle tips
Clavularia sp.	Western Pacific	bright green tentacles and oral disk
Zoanthus sp.	Western Pacific	green-yellow tentacles and oral disk
Discosoma sp. "red"	Western Pacific	orange-red spots oral disk
Discosoma striata	Western Pacific	blue-green stripes on oral disk
Discosoma sp. "magenta"	Western Pacific	faintly purple oral disk
Discosoma sp.	Western Pacific	green spots on oral disk

"green"		
Anemonia	Mediterranean	purple tentacle tips
sulcata		

#### **EXAMPLE 2**

#### cDNA Preparation

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Total RNA was isolated from the species of interest according to the protocol of Chomczynski and Sacchi (Chomczynski P., et al., Anal. Biochem. 162 (1987), 156-159). First-strand cDNA was synthetized starting with 1-3 µg of total RNA using SMART PCR cDNA synthesis kit (CLONTECH) according to the provided protocol with the only alteration being that the "cDNA synthesis primer" provided in the kit was replaced by the primer TN3 (5'- CGCAGTCGACCG(T)<sub>13</sub>, SEQ ID No. 1) (Table 2). Amplified cDNA samples were then prepared as described in the protocol provided except the two primers used for PCR were the TS primer (5'-AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGT, SEQ ID No. 2) (Table 2) and the TN3 primer (Table 2), both in 0.1 µM concentration. Twenty to twenty-five PCR cycles were performed to amplify a cDNA sample. The amplified cDNA was diluted 20-fold in water and 1 µl of this dilution was used in subsequent procedures.

#### TABLE 2

#### Oligos Used in cDNA Synthesis and RACE

5 TN3: 5'-CGCAGTCGACCG(T)<sub>13</sub>

(SEQ ID No. 1)

T7-TN3: 5'-GTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGCCGCAGTCGACCG(T)<sub>13</sub> (SEQ ID No. 17)

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TS-primer: 5'-AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGT (SEQ ID No. 2)

T7-TS:

15 5'-GTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGCAAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGT (SEQ ID No. 18)

T7: 5'-GTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGC (SEQ ID No. 19)

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TS-oligo 5'-AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGTACGCrGrGG (SEQ ID No. 53)

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#### **EXAMPLE 3**

#### Oligo Design

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To isolate fragments of novel fluorescent protein cDNAs, PCR using degenerate primers was performed. Degenerate primers were designed to match the sequence of the mRNAs in regions that were predicted to be the most invariant in the family of fluorescent proteins. Four such stretches were chosen (Table 3) and variants of degenerate primers were designed. All such primers were directed to the 3'-end of mRNA. All oligos were gel-purified before use. Table 2 shows the oligos used in cDNA synthesis and RACE.

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TABLE 3

Key Amino Acid Stretches and Corresponding Degenerate Primers Used for Isolation of Fluorescent Proteins

	Stretch Position	Amino Acid	
	according to	Sequence of	Degenerated Primer Name
	A. victoria GFP (7)	the Key Stretch	and Sequence
			· 
•	20-25	GXVNGH	NGH: 5'- GA(C,T) GGC TGC
		(SEQ ID No. 3)	GT(A,T,G,C) $AA(T,C)$ $GG(A,T,G)$
-			CA (SEQ ID No. 4)
	31-35	GEGEG	GEGa: 5'- GTT ACA GGT GA(A,G)
		(SEQ ID No. 5)	GG(A,C) GA(A,G) GG
			(SEQ ID No. 6)
	!		GEGb: 5'- GTT ACA GGT GA(A,G)
	İ		GG(T,G) GA(A,G) GG
			(SEQ ID No. 7)
		GEGNG	GNGa: 5'- GTT ACA GGT GA(A,G)
		(SEQ ID No. 8)	GG(A,C) AA(C,T) GG

(SEQ ID No. 9) GNGb: 5'- GTT ACA GGT GA(A,G) GG(T,G) AA(C,T) GG (SEQ ID No. 10) 127-131 **GMNFP** NFP: 5' TTC CA(C,T) GGT (SEQ ID No. 11) (G,A)TG AA(C,T) TT(C,T) CC **GVNFP** (SEQ ID NO. 13) (SEQ ID No. 12) 134-137 PVMa: 5' CCT GCC (G,A)A(C,T) **GPVM** (SEQ ID No. 14) GGT CC(A,T,G,C) GT(A,C) ATG (SEQ ID NO. 15) PVMb: 5' CCT GCC (G,A)A(C,T) GGT CC(A,T,G,C) GT(G,T) ATG

(SEQ ID NO. 16)

#### EXAMPLE 4

#### Isolation of 3'-cDNA Fragments of nFPs

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The modified strategy of 3'-RACE was used to isolate the target fragments (see Figure 1). The RACE strategy involved two consecutive PCR steps. The first PCR step involved a first degenerate primer (Table 4) and the T7-TN3 primer (SEQ ID No. 17) which has a 3' portion identical to the TN3 primer used for cDNA synthesis (for sequence of T7-TN3, Table 2). The reason for substituting the longer T7-TN3 primer in this PCR step was that background amplification which occurred when using the shorter TN3 primer was suppressed effectively, particularly when the T7-TN3 primer was used at a low concentration (0.1 \_M) (Frohman et al., (1998) PNAS USA, 85, 8998-9002). The second PCR step involved the TN3 primer (SEQ ID No. 1, Table 2) and a second degenerate primer (Table 4).

TABLE 4

Combinations of Degenerate Primers for First and Second PCR Resulting in Specific Amplification of 3'-Fragments of nFP cDNA

Species	First	Second Degenerate Primer
- <b>F</b>	Degenerate Degenerate	Ü
	Primer	
Anemonia majano	NGH	GNGb
	(SEQ ID No. 4)	(SEQ ID No. 10)
Clavularia sp.	NGH	GEGa
	(SEQ ID No. 4)	(SEQ ID No. 6)
Zoanthus sp.	NGH	GEGa
	(SEQ ID No. 4)	(SEQ ID No. 6)
Discosoma sp. "red"	NGH	GEGa (SEQ ID No. 6),
	(SEQ ID No. 4)	NFP (SEQ ID No. 13) or
•		PVMb (SEQ ID No. 16)
Discosoma striata	NGH	NFP
	(SEQ ID No. 4)	(SEQ ID No. 13)
Anemonia sulcata	NGH	GEGa (SEQ ID No. 6)
	(SEQ ID No. 4)	or NFP (SEQ ID No. 13)

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The first PCR reaction was performed as follows: 1 µl of 20-fold dilution of the amplified cDNA sample was added into the reaction mixture containing 1X Advantage KlenTaq Polymerase Mix with provided buffer (CLONTECH), 200 µM dNTPs, 0.3 µM of first degenerate

primer (Table 4) and 0.1 µM of T7-TN3 (SEQ ID No. 17) primer in a total volume of 20 µl. The cycling profile was (Hybaid OmniGene Thermocycler, tube control mode): 1 cycle for 95°C, 10 sec.; 55°C, 1 min.; 72°C, 40 sec; 24 cycles for 95°C, 10 sec.; 62°C, 30 sec.; 72°C, 40 The reaction was then diluted 20-fold in water and 1 µl of this dilution was added to a second PCR reaction, which contained Advantage KlenTaq Polymerase Mix with the buffer provided by the (CLONTECH), 200 µM dNTPs, 0.3 µM of the second manufacturer degenerate primer (Table 4) and 0.1 µM of TN3 primer. The cycling profile was (Hybaid OmniGene Thermocycler, tube control mode): 1 cycle for 95°C, 10 sec.; 55°C (for GEG/GNG or PVM) or 52°C (for NFP), 1 min.: 72°C, 40 sec; 13 cycles for 95°C, 10sec.; 62°C (for GEG/GNG or PVM) or 58°C (for NFP), 30 sec.; 72°C, 40 sec. The product of PCR was into PCR-Script vector (Stratagene) according the manufacturer's protocol.

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Different combinations of degenerate primers were tried in the first and second PCR reactions on the DNA from each species until a of primers found resulted specific combination was that in amplification--meaning that a pronounced band of expected (about 650-800 bp for NGH and GEG/GNG and 350-500 bp for NFP and PVM--sometimes accompanied by a few minor bands) was detected on The primer combinations agarose gel after two PCR reactions. choice for different species of the Class Anthozoa are listed in Table 4. Some other primer combinations also resulted in amplification fragments of correct size, but the sequence of these fragments showed no homology to the other fluorescent proteins identified Aequorea victoria GFP.

#### EXAMPLE 5

#### Obtaining Full-Length cDNA Copies

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of Upon sequencing the obtained 3'-fragments novel fluorescent protein cDNAs, two nested 5'-directed primers were synthesized for cDNA (Table 5), and the 5' ends of the cDNAs were then amplified using two consecutive PCRs. In the next PCR reaction, the novel approach of "step-out PCR" was used to suppress background amplification. The step-out reaction mixture contained 1x Advantage KlenTaq Polymerase Mix using buffer provided by the manufacturer (CLONTECH), 200 µM dNTPs, 0.2 µM of the first gene-specific primer (see Table 5), 0.02 µM of the T7-TS primer (SEQ ID No. 18), 0.1 µM of T7 primer (SEQ ID No. 19) and 1 µl of the 20-fold dilution of the amplified cDNA sample in a total volume of 20 µl. The cycling profile was (Hybaid OmniGene Thermocycler, tube control mode): 23-27 cycles for 95°C, 10 sec.; 60°C, 30 sec.; 72°C, 40 sec. The product of amplification was diluted 50-fold in water and one µl of this dilution was added to the second (nested) PCR. The reaction contained Advantage KlenTaq Polymerase Mix with provided buffer (CLONTECH), 200 μM dNTPs, 0.2 μM of the second gene-specific primer and 0.1 μM of TS primer (SEQ ID No. 2) in a total volume of 20 µl. The cycling profile was (Hybaid OmniGene Thermocycler, tube control mode): 12 cycles for 95°C, 10 sec.; 60°C, 30 sec.; 72°C, 40 sec. The product of amplification was then cloned into pAtlas vector (CLONTECH) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

"NEWSTREEN,

TABLE 5

Gene-Specific Primers Used for 5'-RACE

Species	First Primer	Second (Nested) Primer
Anemonia	5'-GAAATAGTCAGGCATACTGGT	5'-GTCAGGCATAC
majano	(SEQ ID No. 20)	TGGTAGGAT
	·	(SEQ ID No. 21)
Clavularia	5'-CTTGAAATAGTCTGCTATATC	5'-TCTGCTATATC
sp.	(SEQ ID No. 22)	_ GTCTGGGT
		(SEQ ID No. 23)
Zoanthus	5'-	5'-GTCTACTATGTCTT
sp.	GTTCTTGAAATAGTCTACTATGT	GAGGAT
	(SEQ ID No. 24)	(SEQ ID No. 25)
Discosoma	5'-CAAGCAAATGGCAAAGGTC	5'-CGGTATTGTGGCC
sp. "red"	(SEQ ID No. 26)	TTCGTA
		(SEQ ID No. 27)
Discosoma	5'-TTGTCTTCTTCTGCACAAC	5'-CTGCACAACGG
striata	(SEQ ID No. 28)	GTCCAT
		(SEQ ID No.,29)
Anemonia	5'-CCTCTATCTTCATTTCCTGC	5'-TATCTTCATTTCCT
sulcata	(SEQ ID No. 30)	GCGTAC
		(SEQ ID No. 31)
Discosoma	5'-TTCAGCACCCCATCACGAG	5'-ACGCTCAGAGCTG
sp.	(SEQ ID No. 32)	GGTTCC
"magenta"		(SEQ ID No. 33)
Discosoma	5'-CCCTCAGCAATCCATCACGTTC	5'-ATTATCTCAGTGGA
sp. "green"	(SEQ ID No. 34)	TGGTTC
		(SEQ ID No. 35)

#### **EXAMPLE 6**

#### Expression of nFPs in E.coli

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To prepare a DNA construct for novel fluorescent protein expression, two primers were synthesized for each cDNA: a 5'-directed "downstream" primer with the annealing site located in the 3'-UTR of the cDNA and a 3'-directed "upstream" primer corresponding to the site of translation start site (not including the first ATG codon) (Table Both primers had 5'-heels coding for a site for a restriction endonuclease; in addition, the upstream primer was designed so as to allow the cloning of the PCR product into the pQE30 vector (Qiagen) in such a way that resulted in the fusion of reading frames of the vectorencoded 6xHis-tag and nFP. The PCR was performed as follows: 1 µl of the 20-fold dilution of the amplified cDNA sample was added to a mixture containing 1x Advantage KlenTaq Polymerase Mix with buffer provided by the manufacturer (CLONTECH), 200 µM dNTPs, 0.2 µM of upstream primer and 0.2 µM of downstream primer, in a final total volume of 20 ul. The cycling profile was (Hybaid OmniGene Thermocycler, tube control mode): 23-27 cycles for 95°C, 10 sec.; 60°C, 30 sec.; 72°C, 40 sec. The product of this amplification step was purified by phenol-chlorophorm extraction and ethanol precipitation and then cloned into pQE30 vector using restriction endonucleases corresponding to the primers' sequence according standard protocols.

All plasmids were amplified in XL-1 blue  $E.\ coli$  and purified by plasmid DNA miniprep kits (CLONTECH). The recombinant clones were selected by colony color, and grown in 3 ml of LB medium (supplemented with 100  $\mu$ g/ml of ampicillin) at 37°C overnight. 100  $\mu$ l

of the overnight culture was transferred into 200 ml of fresh IB medium containing 100  $\mu$ g/ml of ampicillin and grown at 37°C, 200 rpm up to OD<sub>600</sub> 0.6-0.7. 1 mM IPTG was then added to the culture and incubation was allowed to proceed at 37°C for another 16 hours. The cells were harvested and recombinant protein, which incorporated 6x His tags on the N-terminus, was purified using TALON<sup>TM</sup> metal-affinity resin according to the manufacturer's protocol (CLONTECH).

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TABLE 6

Primers Used to Obtain Full Coding Region of nFPs for Cloning into Expression Construct

Species	Upstream Primer	Downstream Primer
Anemonia majano	5' -acatggatccgctctttcaaaca agtttatc (SEQ ID No. 36) BamHI	5'-tagtactcgagcttattcgta tttcagtgaaatc (SEQ ID No. 37) XhoI
Clavularia sp.	L: 5'-acatggatccaacattttttga gaaacg (SEQ ID No. 38) BamHI S: 5'-acatggatccaaagctctaacc accatg (SEQ ID No. 39) BamHI	5'-tagtactcgagcaacacaa accetcagacaa (SEQ ID No. 40) XhoI
Zoanthus sp.	5'- acatggatccgctcagtcaaag cacggt (SEQ ID No. 41) BamHI	5'-tagta <u>ctcgagg</u> ttggaactacat tcttatca (SEQ ID No. 42) XhoI
Discosoma sp. "red"	5'- acatggatccaggtcttccaagaat gttatc (SEQ ID No. 43) BamHI	5'-tagtactcgaggagccaagttc agcctta (SEQ ID No. 44) XhoI
Discosoma striata	5'- acatggatccagttggtccaagagtgtg (SEQ ID No. 45)  BamHI	5'-tagcgagctctatcatgcctc gtcacct (SEQ ID No. 46) SacI
Anemonia sulcata	5'- acatggatccgcttcctttttaaagaagact (SEQ ID No. 47) BamHI	5'-tagta <u>ctcgag</u> tccttgggagc ggcttg (SEQ ID No. 48) XhoI
Discosoma sp. "magenta"	5'- acatggatccagttgttccaagaatgtgat (SEQ ID No. 49) BamHI	5'-tagtactcgaggccattacg ctaatc (SEQ ID No. 50) XhoI
Discosoma sp. "green"	5'-acatggatccagtgcacttaaagaagaaatg (SEQ ID No. 51)	5'-tagtactcgagattcggtttaat gccttg (SEQ ID No. 52)

#### EXAMPLE 7

## Novel Fluorescent Proteins and cDNAs Encoding the Proteins

Seven cDNA full-length cDNAs encoding fluorescent proteins were obtained (SEQ ID Nos. 45-51), and seven novel fluorescent proteins were produced (SEQ ID Nos. 53-59). The spectral properties of the isolated novel fluorescent proteins are shown in Table 7, and the emission and excitation spectra for the novel proteins are shown in Figures 3-11.

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TABLE 7

Spectral Properties of the Isolated NFPs.

				<del></del>		<del>,</del>
Species	NFP	Abs.	Emission	Maximum	Relative	Relative
	Name	Max.	Maximum	Extinction	Quantum	Brightness
		n m	n m	Coeff.	Yield*	**
Anemonia	amFP486	458	486	40,000	0.3	0.43
majano						
Clavularia	cFP484	456	484	35,300	0.6	0.77
sp.						
Zoanthus	zFP506	496	506	35,600	0.79	1.02
- sp.						
Zoanthus	zFP538	528	538	20,200	0.52	0.38
sp.						
Discosoma	drFP583	558	583	22,500	0.29	0.24
sp. "red"						
Discosoma	dsFP483	443	483	23,900	0.57	0.50
striata					ļ	
Anemonia	asFP600	572	596	56,200	<0.001	-
sulcata						
Discosoma	dgFP512	502	512	20,360	0.3	0.21
sp "green"						
Discosoma		,				
sp.	dmFP592	573	593	21,800	0.11	0.09
"magenta"						

<sup>5 \*</sup>relative quantum yield was determined as compared to the quantum yield of A. victoria GFP.

<sup>\*\*</sup>relative brightness is extinction coefficient multiplied by quantum yield divided by the same value for A. victoria GFP.

Multiple alignment of fluorescent proteins is shown in The numbering is based on Aequorea victoria green fluorescent protein (GFP, SEQ ID No. 54). The amino acid sequences of the novel fluorescent proteins are labeled as SEQ ID Nos. 55-63. from Zoanthus and four from Discosoma are compared between each other: residues identical to the corresponding ones in the first protein of the series are represented by dashes. Introduced gaps In the sequence of A. victoria GFP, the are represented by dots. stretches forming \beta-sheets are underlined; the residues whose side chains form the interior of the  $\beta$ -can are shaded. Figure 2B shows the N-terminal part of cFP484, which has no homology with the other The putative signal peptide is underlined. proteins.

The following references were cited herein.

- 1. Ormo et al., (1996) Science 273: 1392-1395.
- 15 2. Yang, F., et al., (1996) Nature Biotech 14: 1246-1251.
  - 3. Cormack, et al., (1996) Gene 173, 33-38.

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- 4. Haas, et al., (1996) Current Biology 6, 315-324.
- 5. Yang, et al., (1996) Nucleic Acids Research 24, 4592-4593.
- 6. Ghoda, et al.. (1990) J. Biol. Chem. 265: 11823-11826.
- 20 7. Prasher D.C. et al. (1992) Gene 111:229-33.
  - 8. Kain et al. (1995) Biotechniques 19(4):650-55.
  - 9. Chomczynski P., et al., (1987) Anal. Biochem. 162, 156-159.
  - 10. Frohman et al., (1998) PNAS USA, 85, 8998-9002.

Any patents or publications mentioned in this specification are indicative of the levels of those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains. These patents and publications are by reference to the same extent as if each individual incorporated publication was specifically and individually indicated to b e incorporated by reference.

One skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the present invention is well adapted to carry out the objects and obtain the ends and advantages mentioned, as well as those inherent therein. The present examples along with the methods, procedures, treatments, molecules, and specific compounds described herein are presently representative of preferred embodiments, are exemplary, and are not intended as limitations on the scope of the invention. Changes therein and other uses will occur to those skilled in the art which are encompassed within the spirit of the invention as defined by the scope of the claims.

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#### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of identifying a DNA sequence encoding a fluorescent protein, comprising the step of:

screening for an existence of a nucleic acid sequence in a sample, wherein said nucleic acid sequence encodes a peptide having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 3, 5, 8, 11, 12 and 14, and wherein the existence of said nucleic acid sequence identifies the DNA sequence encoding the fluorescent protein.

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2. A method of identifying a DNA sequence encoding a fluorescent protein, comprising the step of:

screening for an existence of a nucleic acid sequence in a sample, wherein said nucleic acid sequence hybridizes to a primer selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15 and 16, and wherein the existence of said nucleic acid sequence identifies the DNA sequence encoding the fluorescent protein.

- 3. A method of analyzing a fluorescent protein in a cell, 20 comprising the steps of:
  - a) expressing a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fluorescent protein in said cell, wherein said protein having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos. 55-63; and
    - b) measuring a fluorescence signal from said protein.
  - 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

sorting said cell according to said signal.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of sorting comprises sorting said cell by fluorescence activated cell sorting.

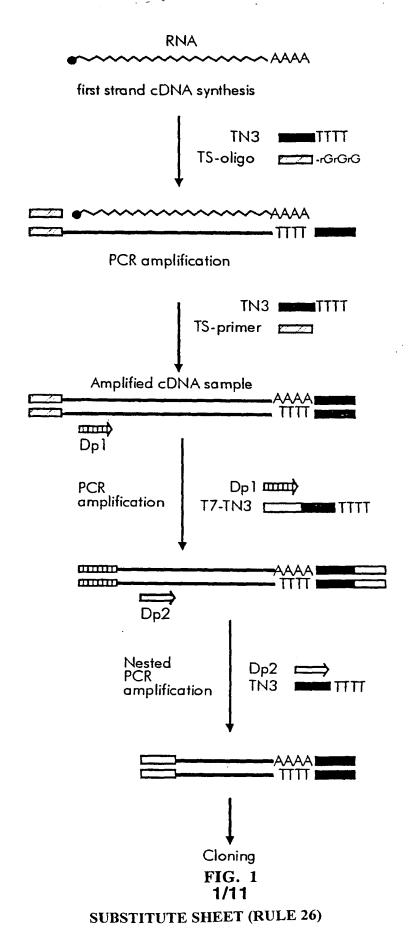
- 5 6. The method of claim 3, wherein said nucleic acid sequence comprises a gene of interest encoding a protein of interest fused to said fluorescent protein, wherein said protein of interest is distinct from said fluorescent protein.
- 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the fluorescence signal indicates a presence of said gene of interest in said cell.
  - 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said cell further comprises a protein of interest fused to said fluorescent protein.
  - 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

identifying an intracellular location of said fluorescent protein, thereby identifying an intracellular location of said protein of 20 interest.

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10. An isolated and purified fluorescent protein selected from the group consisting of amFP486, cFP484, zFP506, zFP538, dsFP483, drFP583, asFP600, dgFP512 and dmFP592.

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INSTRUCT.

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10 20 30 40 50 MSKGEELFTG. VVPILVELDGDVNGHKFSVSGEGEGDATYGKLTLKFICTT.GKLPVPW GFP	SEQ ID# 54
MAQSKHGLTK.EMTMKYRMEGCVDGHKFVITGEGIGYPFKGKQAINLCVVEGGPLPFAE 2FP506	57 58
MSWSKSVIKE.EMLIDLHLEGTFNGHYFEIKGKGKGKPNEGTNTVTLEVTKGGPLPFGW dsFP48M-ALY-K-N-TMVVLP-K-R-DYQ-SQELT-VSY dgFP51 -RSNF-RFKVRMVEE-E-R-YHK-KA- drFP58 M-CNF-RFKVRMVEE-R-YHCS-K-MAF dmFP59	2 62 3 60
MASFLKK.TMPFKTTIEGTVNGHYFKCTGKGEGNPFEGTQEMKIEVIEGGPLPFAF asFP60 MALSNKFIGD.DMKMTYHMDGCVNGHYFTVKGEGNGKPYEGTQTSTFKVTMANGGPLAFSF amFP48 (KALTTMGVIKPDMKIKLKMEGNVNGHAFVIEGEGEGKPYDGTHTLNLEVKMAEGAPLPFSY cFP484	16 55
60 70 80 90 100 110 PTLVTTFSYGVQCFSRYPDHMKQHDFFKSAM:PEGYVQERTIFFKDDGNYKTRAEVKFEGD	GFP
DILSAAFNYGNRVFTEYPQDIVDYFKNSCPAGYTWDRSFLFEDGAVCICNADITVSVEEN	zFP506 zFP538
HILCPQFQYGNKAFVHHPDDIPDYLKLSFPEGYTWERSMHFEDGGLCCITNDISLTGN D-TTMRNY-EIF-QTCSGPNGS-Q-T-TYV-TA-SNVV-D D-SS-VY-K-AKFKV-NVVTV-Q-SKDG	dsFP483 dgFP512 drFP583 dmFP592
HILSTSCMYGSKTFIKYVSGIPDYFKQSFPEGFTWERTTTYEDGGFLTAHQDTSLDGD DILSTVFKYGNRCFTAYPTSMPDYFKQAFPDGMSYERTFTYEDGGVATASWEISLKGN DILSNAFQYGNRALTKYPDDIADYFKQSFPEGYSWERTMTFEDKGIVKVKSDISMEED	asFP600 amFP486 cFP484
120 130 140 150 160 170 <u>TLVNRIELKGI</u> DFKEDGNILGHKLEYNYN <u>SHNVYIM</u> ADKQKNG <u>IKVNFKIRHNI</u> EDGSVQL	GFP
CMYHESKFYGVNFPADGPVM.KKMTDNWEPSCEKIIPVPKQGILKGDVSMYLLLKDGGRLR-IK-I-N-M	zFP506 zFP538
CENYDIKETGLNEPPNGPVV.QKKTTGWEPSTERLYPRDGVLIGDIHHALTVEGGGHYV  TH-M-ALDMMR-MKIMFEL-R-D-AMS-LLKRI-KVI-VSDMMAK-EK-KLKDLI-EVI-VSDMRR-RSKMRLL	dsFP483 dgFP512 drFP583 dmFP592
CLVYKVKILGNNFPADGPVM.QNKAGRWEPATEIVYEVDGVLRGQSLMALKCPGGRHLT CFEHKSTFHGVNFPADGPVM.AKKTTGWDPSFEKMTVCDGILKGDVTAFLMLQGGGNYR SFIYEIRFDGMNFPPNGPVM.QKKTLKWEPSTEIMYV,.RDGVLVGDISHSLLLEGGGHYR	asEP600 amFP486 cFP484
180 190 200 210 220 230 ADHYQQNTPIGDG.PVLLPDNHYLSTOSALSKDPNEKRDHMVLLEFVTAAGITHGMDELYK	GFP
CQFDTVYKAKSVPRKMPDWHFIQHKLTREDRSDAKNQKWHLTEHAIASGSALP	zFP506 zFP538
CDIKTVYPAKKPVKMPGYHYVDTKLVIRSNDKEFM.KVEEHEIAVARHHPLQSQFE-I-KPN- VDFHYIE-T-QQNYYN VLT-V-EYSS-EKIGKSKA VEF-SI-MQLYSD-T-HNEDYT.IQY-RTEGLFL VEF-SI-MV PS-QLYSDMT-HNEDYT VQY-KTQFIKPLQ	dsFP483 dgFP512 drFP583 dmFP592
CHLHTTYRSKKPASALKMPGFHFEDHRIEIMEEVEKGK.CYKQYEAAVGRYCDAAPSKLGHN CQFHTSYKTKKPVTMPPNHVVEHRIARTDLDKGGN.SVQLTEHAVAHITSVFPF CDFKSIYKAKKVVKLPDYHFVDHRIEILNHDKDYN.KVTLYENAVARYSLLPSQA	asFP600 amFP486 cFP484

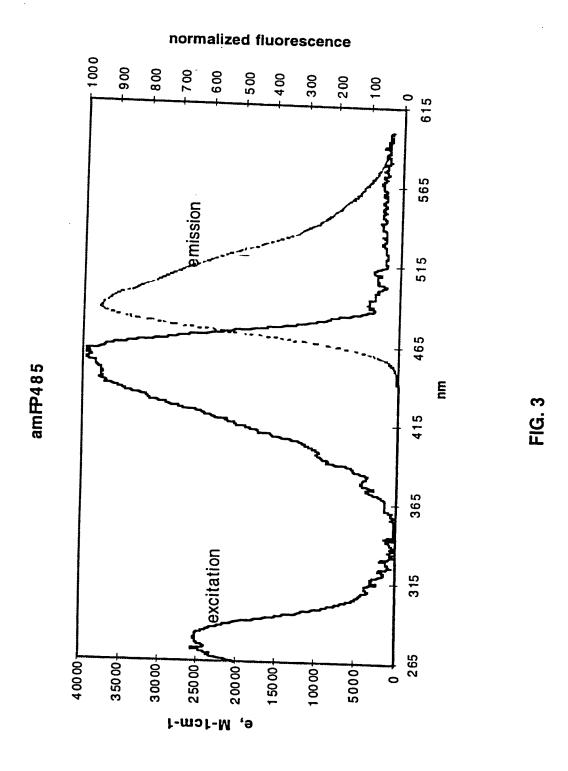
## FIG. 2A

**»** 

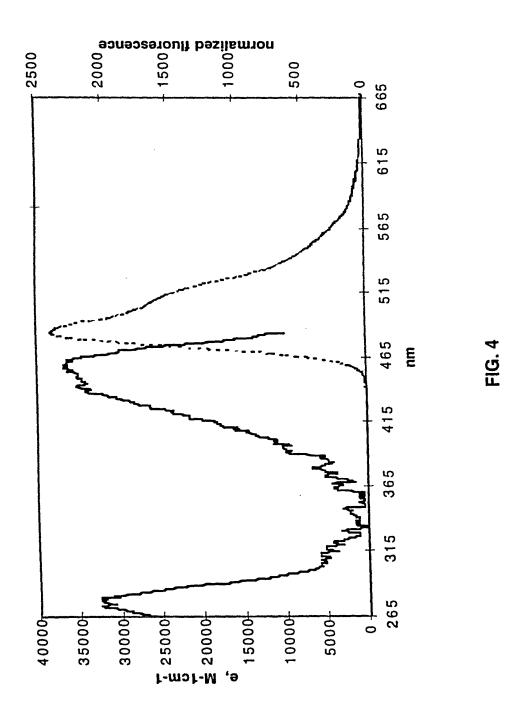
MKCKFVFCLSFLVLAITNANIFLRNEADLEEKTLRIP

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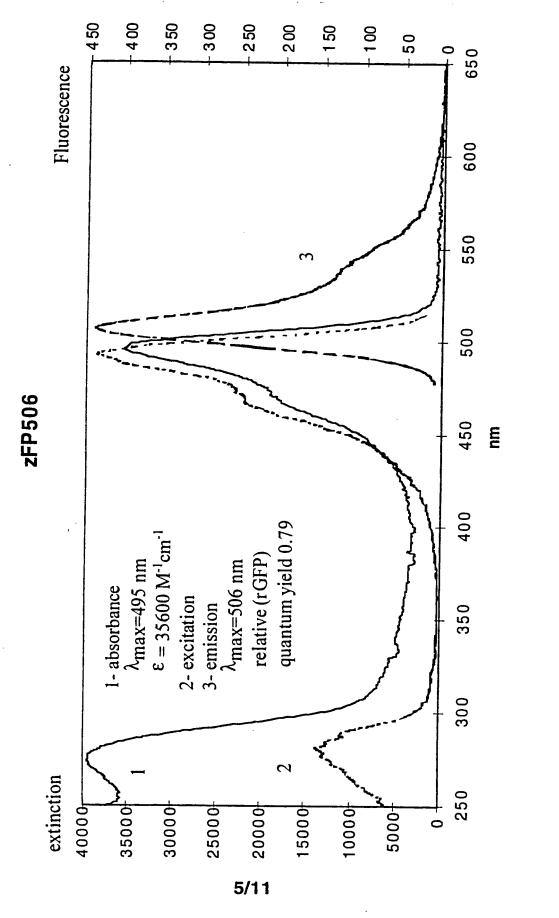


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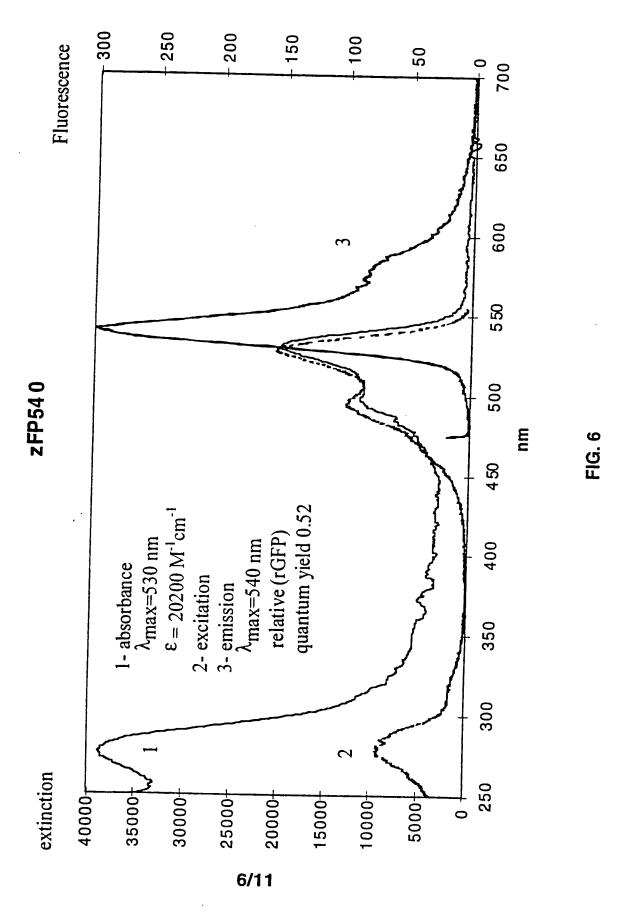
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FIG. 5



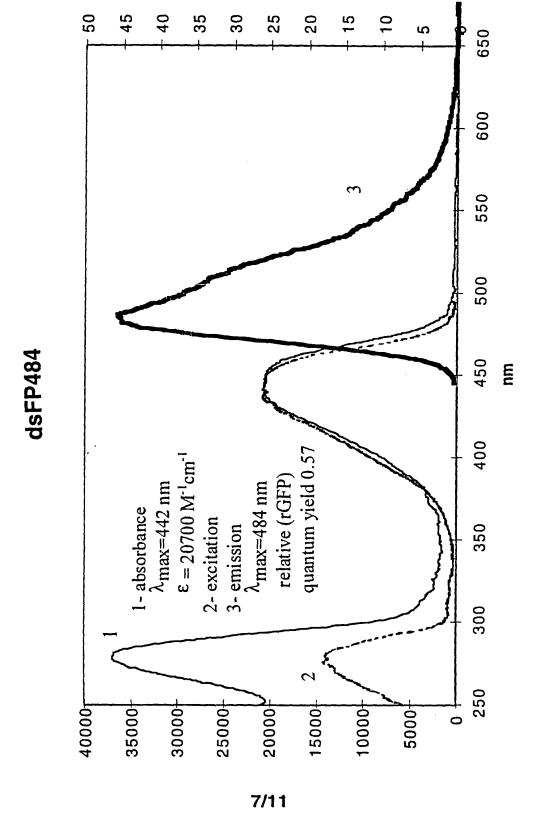
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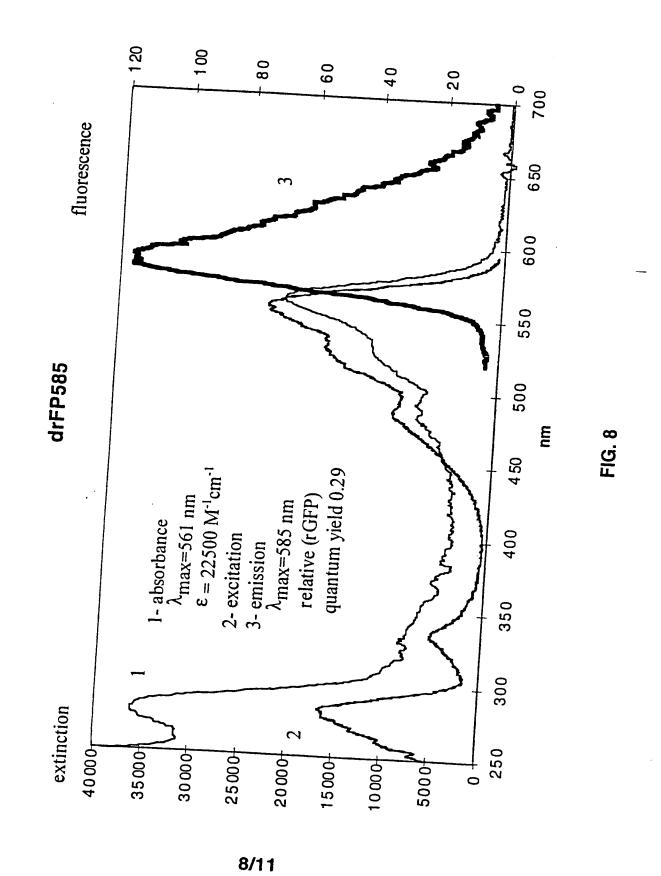
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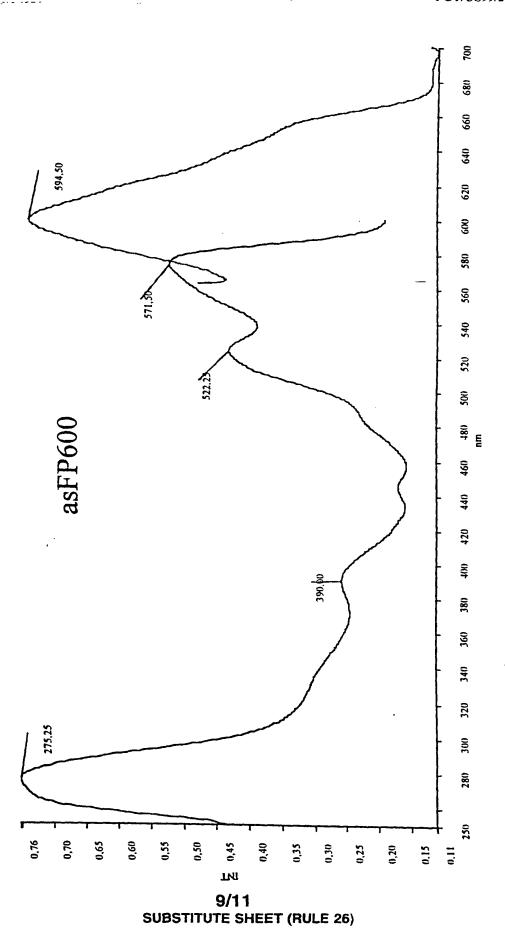
FIG. 7

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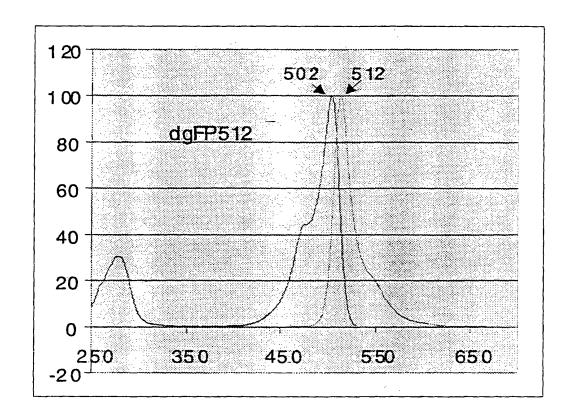
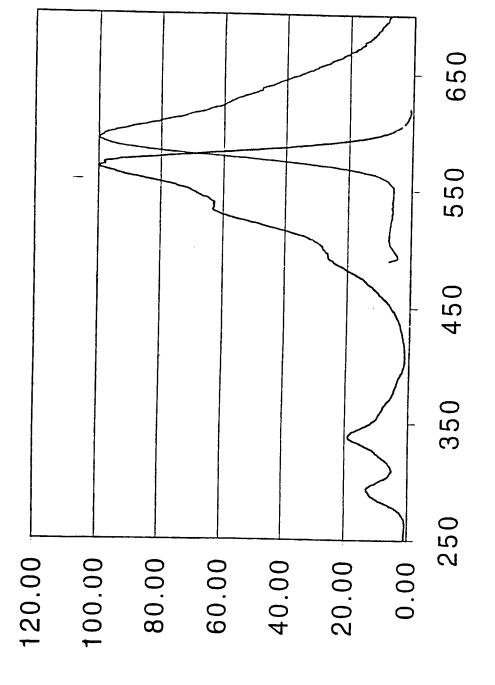


Fig. 10

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FIG. 11

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		Labas, Yulii A.
		Matz, Mikhail V.
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		proteins and uses thereof
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	J J JJ -	
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25		primer NFP is based
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	<223>	amino acid sequence of a key stretch on which
		primer NFP is based

SEQ 4/28

SEQ 5/28

primer PVMa used for isolation of fluorescent protein; n at position 15 represents any of the

artificial sequence

primer\_bind

15

<213>

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<222>

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four bases <400> 15 cctgccrayg gtccngtmat g 21 5 <210> 16 <211> 21 <212> DNA <213> artificial sequence <220> <221> 10 primer\_bind <222> 15 <223> primer PVMb used for isolation of fluorescent protein; n at position 15 represents any of the four bases 15 <400> 16 cctgccrayg gtccngtkat g 21 <210> 17 <211> 47 20 <212> DNA <213> artificial sequence <220> <221> primer\_bind <223> primer T7-TN3 used in cDNA synthesis and RACE 25 <400> 17 gtaatacgac tcactatagg gccgcagtcg accgtttttt ttttttt 47 <210> 18 <211> 45 30 <212> DNA <213> artificial sequence <220> <221> primer\_bind <223> primer T7-TS used in cDNA synthesis and RACE 35 <400> 18 gtaatacgac tcactatagg gcaagcagtg gtatcaacgc agagt 45

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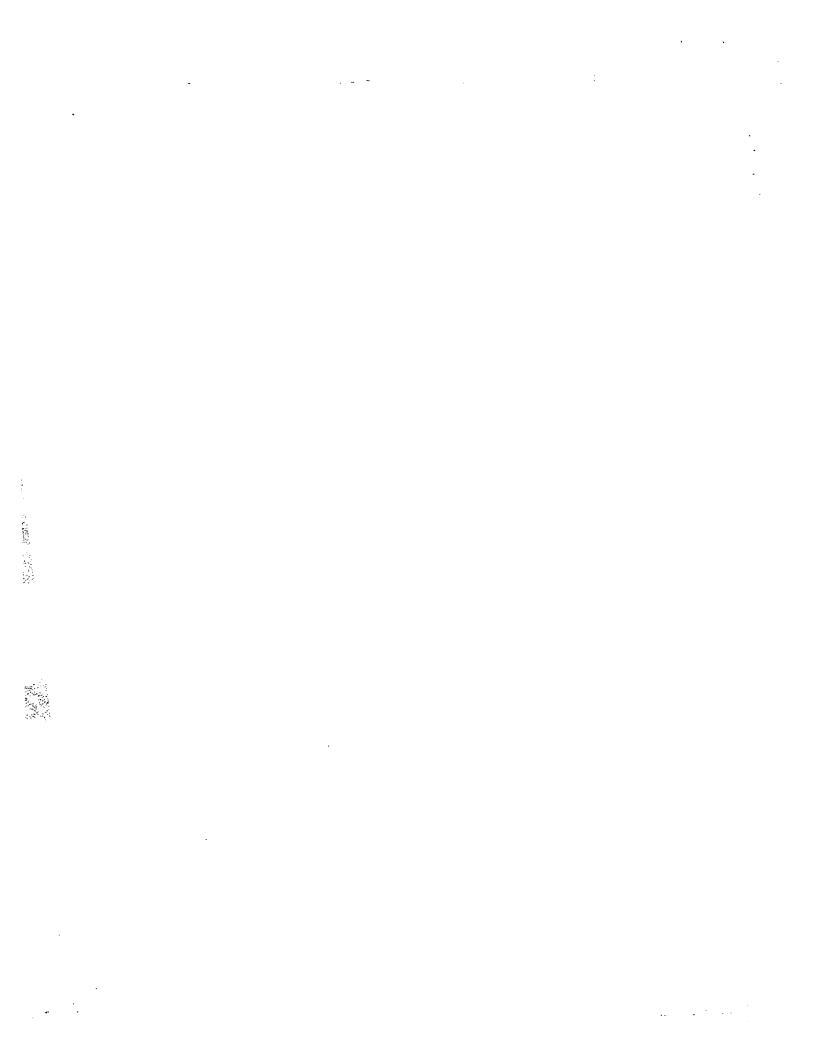
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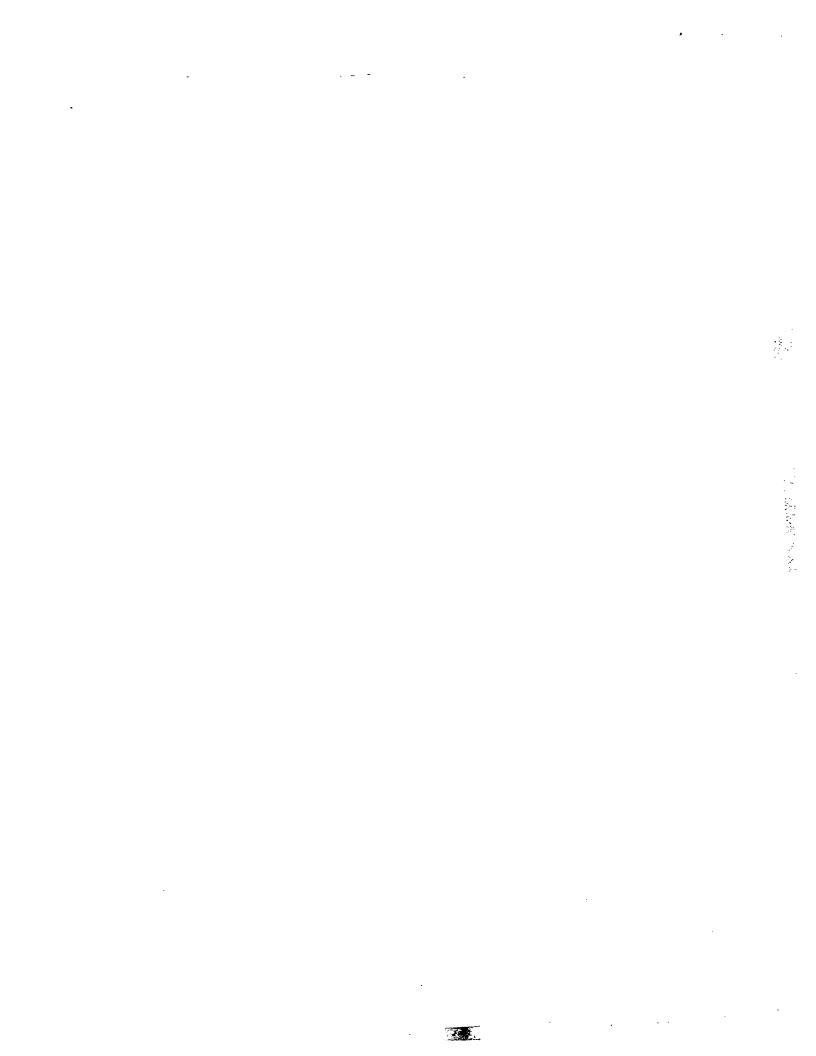
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US99/29405

IPC(7)	SSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER :C12Q 1/68; C07K 14/435 :435/6, 69.1; 530/350								
According t	o International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both	national classification and IPC							
B. FIEL	DS SEARCHED								
Minimum d	ocumentation searched (classification system followed	d by classification symbols)							
U.S. : 4	435/6, 69.1, 968; 530/350; 424/9.6, 436/172								
Documentat	ion searched other than minimum documentation to the	extent that such documents are included	in the fields searched						
	ata base consulted during the international search (na Extra Sheet.	me of data base and, where practicable	, search terms used)						
c. Doc	UMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT								
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where ap	propriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.						
***	The sequence diskette submitted with thus the references listed below were search, and not by a search of the SEC	obtained solely by a WORD	***						
X, P	MATZ et al. Fluorescent proteins from nonbioluminescent Anthozoa species. Nature Biotechnology. October 1999, Volume 17, No. 10, pages 969-973, entire document.								
Х, Р	DE 197 18 640 A1 (WIEDENMA document.	NN) 22 July 1999, entire	3-10						
Furth	er documents are listed in the continuation of Box C	. See patent family annex.							
• Spe	ecial categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the int							
	cument defining the general state of the art which is not considered be of particular relevance	date and not in conflict with the appl the principle or theory underlying the							
	lier document published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the							
*L* doc	cunent which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is not be establish the publication date of another citation or other citation (as specified)	when the document is taken alone  "Y"  document of particular relevance; th							
*O* doc	cument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other ans	considered to involve an inventive combined with one or more other suc being obvious to a person skilled in	step when the document is hocuments, such combination						
·P· doc	cument published prior to the international filing date but later than priority date claimed	*& document member of the same paten	t family						
Date of the	actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international sea	arch report						
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	nailing address of the ISA/US	Authorized officer							
Box PCT	Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231  GABRIELE ELISABETH BOGALST								
Facsimile N	o. (703) 305-3230	Telephone No. (703) 308-0196	Į.						

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